

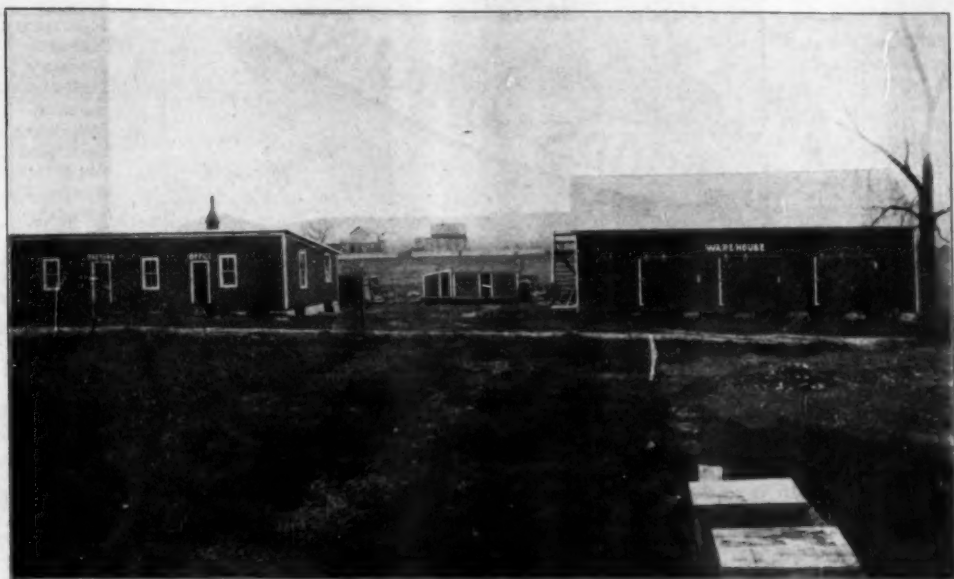
# American Bee Journal



44th Year.

CHICAGO, ILL., NOV. 24, 1904.

No. 47.



OFFICE, FACTORY AND WAREHOUSE OF MR. GUS DITTMER.



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(See page 788.)

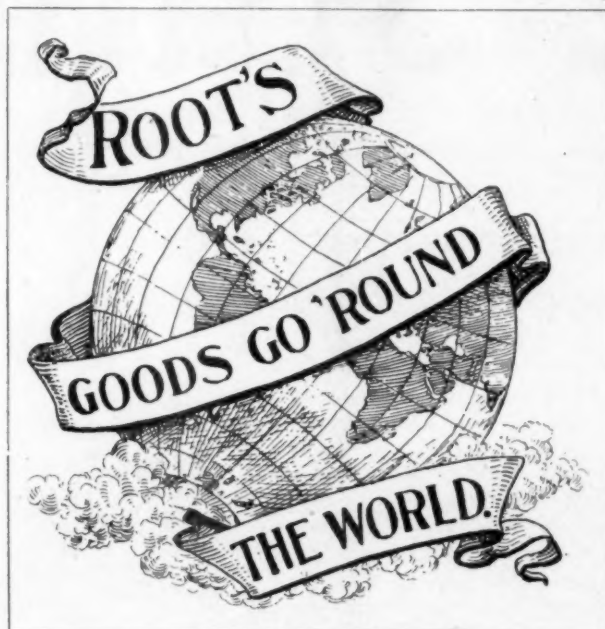
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# AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL

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GEORGE W. YORK, Editor.

CHICAGO, ILL., NOV. 24, 1904.

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## Editorial Notes and Comments



### The Chicago-Northwestern Convention.

Don't forget to attend this convention at the Revere House, southeast corner of North Clark and Michigan Streets, Chicago, next Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 30 and Dec. 1. It promises to be one of the most largely attended conventions held in the United States in a long time. Many prominent bee-keepers have indicated their expectation of being present. As this Association covers such a large territory surrounding Chicago, it should have even a larger attendance than some of the National meetings. Low railroad rates will also be in force at the time of the meeting, on account of the International Live Stock Exposition, which is held here the same week.

One of the greatest attractions at the coming meeting of the Chicago-Northwestern will be a stereopticon lecture by Mr. E. R. Root. In connection with this, swarming and methods of hiving will be shown by the kinetoscope. As most of our readers know, this will be a moving picture show. The panorama presents in turn the hive of bees, the bees pouring out of the hive in perfect swarms, circling in the air, clustering on a limb, which is then sawed off and carried to a new hive, dumped on the ground, and the bees scooped up by the handful. It takes 10 or 15 minutes to run this picture through, for there are over 450 feet of it all told, making in all about 4000 pictures. Mr. Root expects to exhibit this also at the Minnesota convention in Minneapolis, Dec. 7 and 8, and at the next meeting of the Cincinnati association. Surely, it ought to help to draw a large attendance of bee-keepers to all these meetings.

There is a good prospect of having in attendance at the Chicago-Northwestern convention the following, some of whom are *sure* to come: Dr. C. C. Miller, N. E. France, C. P. Dadant, Gus Dittmer, J. Q. Smith, Chas. Becker, and many others whose names are well known to the bee-keepers of this part of the country.

Let all the bee-keepers come who can possibly do so. And don't forget to bring along, or send to this office, any apianian questions that you'd like to have presented.

### Nominations for Officers of the National.

A recent Stray Straw by Dr. C. C. Miller, in *Gleanings in Bee-Culture*, runs thus:

"General Manager France, in giving that lot of names as candidates, has followed his own notion, not the rule of the directors. The rule is that 'the two men receiving the

greatest number of votes for each respective office are to be candidates for such office'. The spirit and intent of that rule is that those two shall be candidates, *and no others*. If the intent had been that all were to be considered on equal footing, what sense was there in saying anything about the two highest? When that rule was submitted, I sent an earnest protest to the chairman, but there was no chance for discussion. A little wire-pulling might succeed in giving the highest preliminary vote to two men not the choice of the whole, and the best man for the place entirely shut out of the race. If there had been any chance for discussion, I don't believe the directors would have passed any such rule."

The saying, "Any fool can find fault, but the remedy, that's the thing", may possibly apply here. It seemed high time that something should be done to prevent the continuance in the directors' office year after year of the same men, without any chance for change. Not that there is any wrong in continuing a man in office, if he be the best man for the place, but as the thing has been heretofore for many years, there was little chance for any change, whatever the qualifications. The rule adopted by the Board of Directors was at least an effort in the direction of something done by way of nomination before taking the vote. That there are objections to the rule can not be denied. But while finding fault with the present rule, why doesn't Dr. Miller say what is better? Very likely he may say, "I don't know".

At any rate, it can do no harm to discuss the matter, so as to be ready for something else another year, and the columns of this paper are open to such discussion. No doubt the directors will be glad of any suggestions that may be made.

### Uniform Size of Sections for Honey.

There are advantages in having as much uniformity as possible in the different implements and supplies used by bee-keepers. It would be less matter if each bee-keeper was his own manufacturer, but the manufacturers from whom supplies are bought can of course do better to make in large quantities, and the less supplies cost manufacturers the better ought to be the market for bee-keepers.

Differences in localities may account for necessary difference in such things as hives, but it hardly seems that great difference in sections is needed. Speaking of this, the editor of the *American Bee-Keeper* says:

"The two-pound, and the half-pound sizes of section, which used to strive for a place in the honey market, have

been crowded out by the medium-size—one-pound. The late 'tall section' fad is the only menace to loom up before the very desirable condition of uniformity in American comb-honey packages."

The chief, if not the only claim for superiority on the part of the tall section, is that it *looks* larger than the square section. In general it is right to concede something for looks. Indeed, a considerable part of the value of a section of honey lies in its looks. Not many would be likely to pay so much more for a pound of section honey than for a pound of extracted honey, if it were not that a section of honey upon the table is a "thing of beauty". Is there, however, more beauty in a tall section than a square one? Probably few would say that an oblong section looks more beautiful on a plate than a square one. The customer prefers the tall section, not because it looks *better*, but because it looks *larger*. In plain words, he is deceived into the belief that it is larger.

If there are other advantages in the tall section, it should have its fair chance in securing favor; but is it well to urge a claim that is based on deception?

### Comb Honey for Candy.

Honey has been known to be used to some extent in the manufacture of candy, and some years ago the lamented "Rambler"—J. H. Martin—went so far as to put up very small packages of granulated honey as a confection. All this, however, was extracted honey, and it comes as a surprise to be told that comb honey is now used in the manufacture of candy. Although details are exasperatingly meager, here is what J. A. Green says about it in *Gleanings in Bee-Culture*:

"A bee-keeping friend tells me that he sells a great deal of dark honey to a confectioner who uses it in the manufacture of high-grade candies. This is comb honey, mind you, not extracted honey. When I first heard this I thought the buyer had the idea that he had to buy it in the comb to be sure of a pure article, but it seems he has an altogether different reason. The whole thing, comb and all, is put into the candy. He claims it makes it 'stand up' better. That is, I presume, it endures better the changes of temperature and moisture. I had heard already of using paraffin for this purpose, but he claims that the honey-comb is superior. It is possible that here is a market that might profitably be cultivated and enlarged."



## Miscellaneous News Items



The Chicago-Northwestern Convention will be held next week—Wednesday and Thursday—Nov. 30 and Dec. 1. The first session will be at 10 a.m., Nov. 30, in the Revere House, southeast corner of North Clark and Michigan Streets. A big attendance and a big time are expected. Better come.

**Gus Dittmer's and Comb-Foundation Making.**—We left St. Paul at 8:30 Wednesday morning, Oct. 19, on the Chicago & Northwestern railroad, and arrived at Augusta, Wis., at about 12:20 p.m. It was just beginning to rain—a sort of drizzle-drozzle. We inquired of the station agent where Mr. Dittmer's factory was. "Gus Dittmer?" he asked. "Why, right across there", he pointed; "where you see those red buildings".

We thanked him, and started for the "red buildings". By the way, Mr. Dittmer has done his share toward "painting the town red", for he has four buildings of that color devoted to the bee-supply and comb-foundation business.

It was a little late, so we stopped at the hotel for dinner, after which we went on to Mr. Dittmer's. Arriving, we opened his office door, and there he was as busy as a honey-bee in a basswood blossom. Of course he was surprised to see us, as he was not expecting us at all. We had met him at the Wisconsin convention last February, so we were not entire strangers to each other. He is the excellent secretary of the State Bee-Keepers' Association.

After a little visiting he took us over to his pleasant home to meet his good wife, daughters, and son. The second son, Clarence, had left about a month before to attend school in a Kansas university, having graduated from the Augusta schools last June. "Fred" (24 years) and "Bessie" (22) are the oldest son and daughter, respectively, and are the main helpers in the business.

Fred is really his father's right-hand man, having entire charge of the manufacturing and shipping, while Mr. Dittmer attends to all the office-work, melting wax, and has a general supervision of the business.

Bessie runs a comb-foundation machine as easily as

many another young lady would run a sewing machine. The fact is, that the whole Dittmer family are "in the business". And they are a happy family. They seem to enjoy each other so much. We shall not soon forget our stay there. And we stayed longer than we intended, but it was not wholly our fault. We expected to leave on the 10:20 p.m. train, and Mr. Dittmer started with us for the station. We arrived just about a half minute too late, for the train pulled out before our eyes—"so near and yet so far". Mr. Dittmer declared that it was a minute ahead of time!

Before leaving for the train both Mr. and Mrs. Dittmer had urged us to remain all night, but we thought we would better go on to the next place. So when we came back to the house again with Mr. Dittmer the rest of the family rather had the laugh on us. But it was all right. The "Dittmer House" is a good place to stop. There was not another train going east until the next noon. But the time was all too short. Mrs. Dittmer, and, in fact the whole family, are royal entertainers. Even little Margaret (9 years old) recited several beautiful selections, and she and her little girl friend sang a duet for us before starting for school in the morning. Mr. and Mrs. Dittmer may well take pride in their children. They are all bright, and full of push and energy. And the children may also rejoice that they have such a father and mother.

We had never before seen comb foundation manufactured, so here was our chance. Everything was open to us except the sheeting process, which is one of the Dittmer secrets. We should judge, however, from what Mr. D. said, that this process of sheeting beeswax is superior to that of the Weed process.

It was very interesting to see the machine turn out the clear, bright surplus foundation and pile it up with sheets of tissue paper between the sheets of foundation, all done automatically. Mr. D. probably has the only automatic papering arrangement there is in existence. It is a very simple arrangement, indeed. And the proper length of both paper and foundation is cut off together with one movement of the sharp knife.



Mr. Dittmer himself studied out all of his comb-foundation methods, except, of course, the roller mills through which the long, plain sheets of beeswax pass and receive the impressions of the comb-cells. It took him several years to perfect his beeswax melting, purifying, and sheeting processes. It all involves much labor and care, but when his beeswax is ready for the foundation-mill it is almost as transparent and free from impurities as glass, comparatively speaking.

Mr. Dittmer's output of comb foundation this year (1904) will be about 25,000 pounds. His daily capacity is about 1500 pounds. We were surprised to learn this. The fact is, his product has been received with such general favor among bee-keepers that the demand has steadily increased until he is now, we believe, third in the list of comb-



GUS. DITTMER.

foundation makers in this country. Next year, if the season proves good, we shouldn't be surprised to see him occupy second place. He is so energetic and enthusiastic, and there is such a "get there" way about him and his whole family, that he is bound to succeed. Well, he deserves all the success that may come to him. All men like to see an honest, industrious man win. Gus Dittmer is a winner. You can put that down somewhere. He is grateful for the patronage that has come to him, and is ready to welcome more.

It is truly wonderful to see what Mr. Dittmer has accomplished since the disastrous factory fire which almost wiped him out last February. An ordinary mortal would have given up the battle. But not so with Mr. Dittmer. He and his faithful family gathered themselves together as quickly as possible. Loyal friends and neighbors volunteered all kinds of assistance. Some offered him all the cash he might need. Mrs. Dittmer said it was almost worth the fire loss to see how true were proven some of their friendships. It strengthened their faith in humanity. But, after all, the fire was a hard blow in another way, as it put off several years the long-hoped-for new dwelling-house. Still, that will be on hand shortly, and will be appreciated all the more when it does come.

Augusta is a town of about 1500 inhabitants, in a rich agricultural district. Mr. Dittmer has resided there practically all his life, although he was born in Prussia, Germany. He is a prominent citizen in his town and county,

and active in all good causes. His habits have been such as would invariably produce the best in character as well as in substantial results, as the world measures success. These characteristics are shared in by Mrs. Dittmer, and thus they are bequeathing to their children a legacy richer and more enduring than that of financial wealth or earthly position. Character and education—the best of life's equipments—can not be purchased, or even transferred by order. They are the result of a steady growth and development throughout the years. Hence, their higher and more lasting value.

The Illinois State Bee-Keepers' Association held its convention last week Tuesday and Wednesday, in Springfield. There was the largest attendance in years. Mr. N. E. France, the General Manager of the National Bee-Keepers' Association, was present, and gave an interesting talk on foul brood and the inspector's work in general. A number of very important actions were taken, looking toward the promotion of the bee-keepers' interests in Illinois. The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows: President, J. Q. Smith; 1st vice-president, A. Coppin; 2d vice-president, S. N. Black; 3d vice-president, J. W. Primm; 4th vice-president, J. W. Bowen; 5th vice-president, James Poindexter; secretary, James A. Stone, R. 4, Springfield, Ill.; and treasurer, Charles Becker. The three principal officers were all re-elections, thus testifying to their efficiency and interest in the work.

Probably the most important action taken was that looking toward the affiliation of all local associations in Illinois with the State Association, on the payment of a membership fee of 25 cents each, whenever a local association joins the State in a body.

We expect later to publish a full report of the proceedings of this convention.

Geo. E. Hilton, of Newaygo Co., Mich., writing us Nov. 12, reported that he was just recovering from the most severe illness of his life, not having seen his office for over six weeks, and then able to sit up only a part of the time. He hoped soon to be all right again, but it seemed a slow process. Mr. Hilton is one of Michigan's best-known bee-keepers. Over 20 years ago he attended his first bee-keepers' convention in Chicago. It is hoped that he, with many other old-time bee-keepers, will be able to be here again next week Wednesday and Thursday, when the Chicago-Northwestern holds its annual meeting.

**Honey as a Health-Food.**—This is a 16-page honey-pamphlet intended to help increase the demand for honey. The first part of it contains a short article on "Honey as Food", written by Dr. C. C. Miller. It tells where to keep honey, how to liquefy it, etc. The last part is devoted to "Honey-Cooking Recipes" and "Remedies Using Honey". It should be widely circulated by those selling honey. The more the people are educated on the value and uses of honey the more honey they will buy.

PRICES, prepaid—Sample copy for a two-cent stamp; 50 copies for 70 cts.; 100 for \$1.25; 250 for \$2.25; 500 for \$4.00; or 1000 for \$7.50. Your business card printed *free* at the bottom of the front page on all orders for 100 or more copies. Send all orders to the office of the American Bee Journal.

**Some Facts About Honey and Bees.**—This is the subject of an article written by Mr. J. E. Johnson, and published on pages 581-82 of the American Bee Journal for Aug. 25, 1904. We have republished it in 4-page leaflet form for general distribution, and furnish it, postpaid, at 35 cents per 100 copies. Send all orders to the office of the American Bee Journal.



## Opinions of Some Experts



### Plain Sections vs. the Slotted Kind.

18.—(a) Have you tried plain sections?

(b) If so, what is your estimate of them as compared with sections having insets?

S. T. PETTIT (Ont.)—a. No.

C. DAVENPORT (Minn.)—No.

E. S. LOVESY (Utah)—a. No.

R. L. TAYLOR (Mich.)—a. No.

O. O. POPPLETON (Fla.)—a. No.

N. E. FRANCE (Wis.)—a. A few.

J. M. HAMBAUGH (Calif.)—a. No.

REV. M. MAHIN (Ind.)—a. I have not.

MRS. J. M. NULL (Mo.)—a. I have not.

PROF. A. J. COOK (Calif.)—a. No. In theory they are good.

P. H. ELWOOD (N. Y.)—a. No, but I am favorably inclined to them.

DR. J. P. H. BROWN (Ga.)—I have tried both kinds, but I prefer the slotted sections.

DR. C. C. MILLER (Ill.)—a. Yes. b. I can't get more money out of one than the other.

C. H. DIBBERN (Ill.)—a. Yes. b. They are better, save scraping and expense in shipping-cases.

ADRIAN GETAZ (Tenn.)—a. Yes, in connection with the fences. b. Better than any other arrangement.

E. D. TOWNSEND (Mich.)—a. Yes, we use the 4x5 plain section. b. They appear to sell a little more readily.

G. M. DOOLITTLE (N. Y.)—I do not see enough advantage in the plain sections to warrant changing to them.

E. WHITCOMB (Nebr.)—a. I work for extracted honey only. b. I confess that the plain section seems to catch the eye more favorably.

JAS. A. STONE (Ill.)—a. Yes. b. I like them so well that I am setting aside all my old tin separators and getting no other than the fence separators and the plain sections.

WM. ROHRIG (Ariz.)—a. In a small way. b. If I were producing comb honey for the market I think I would use

plain sections largely. They are more easily cleaned, and look more attractive when filled, than sections having insets.

EUGENE SECOR (Iowa)—a. Just a little. b. If one has the fences and everything necessary to use plain sections they are all right so far as getting honey is concerned, but I don't like them as well in a shipping-case—so hard to get hold of a section.

L. STACHELHAUSEN (Tex.)—a. I have. b. I like them, but the customers at first did not, because they seem to be smaller. Some talking was necessary before they accepted them. More sections can be packed in the same shipping-case; that's the main advantage.

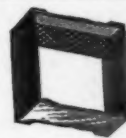
G. W. DEMAREE (Ky.)—a. I tried them 20 years ago, plain 4-piece sections made at home. b. In my experience they require too much propolized "rigging up" to adapt them to the essential "tiering-up system". In my estimation there is no comparison between the open-top-and-bottom sections and the plain sections, when it comes to simple, practical work.

R. C. AIKIN (Colo.)—a. Yes. b. I want mine with the insets  $\frac{1}{2}$  only, and entire width of section. The old 4-piece nailed section was better than the modern 1-piece as scallops and insets are made. Top and bottom bars should be the same width their entire length. Plain sections are so, that is main reason they are better finished. I have been kicking to have all sections embody that feature, but factory people would not heed me. It is six one way and a half-dozen the other, so far as finish goes, whether the bee-way is in the section or in the separator; but I have it go clear to the side-bar—that counts.

JAMES A. GREEN (Colo.)—a. Yes. I have used them in a limited way (up to 25 cases a season) for several years. b. I prefer the sections with insets. I think it costs me more to produce honey in plain sections than in the regular style, principally because more combs are fastened to the separators. Plain sections are easier scraped, and more of them can be put in a case of the same size, if this is desired. These are their only advantages worth mentioning in my estimation, while they have some serious disadvantages, the principal one of which is their much greater liability to damage, especially in the hands of the retailer. I believe the use of plain sections has a tendency to lessen the demand for honey, and consequently is a step backward.



## Contributed Special Articles



### Sainfoin or Esparcet as a Honey-Plant—Other Plants.

BY C. P. DADANT.

ON page 740 is a quotation from the Canadian Bee Journal concerning sainfoin as a honey-producer, and the statement that this plant does not produce honey in marketable quantities. This is true of America, but would be erroneous if applied to some other countries.

Sainfoin, otherwise called esparcet—the scientific name of which is *Onobrychis sativa*—is widely cultivated in Europe, especially in France. Its name, "sainfoin", is French, and literally means "healthy hay"—sain-foin—and I see by the Century Dictionary that in some parts of the United States it has been introduced under the name of

"French grass". It is a perennial, gives a splendid hay crop, and in some sections of the European continent it is a first-class honey-producer.

The small province of France, formerly called "Gatinais", is the leading producer of sainfoin honey. According to the best authorities the honey of Gatinais has the reputation of being of the whitest color and sweetest taste, and is said to be in no way surpassed by white clover honey.

Gaston Bonnier, the eminent professor who was president of the International congress of bee-keepers at Paris in 1900, says in his book, the "Cours Complet d'Apiculture", that sainfoin honey is one of the best appreciated grades. He ranks it next only to the honey of the Alpine hills of eastern France and Switzerland.

From immemorial times the honey crops of Gatinais have been considered as leading in the amount of production, and this was all credited to the sainfoin, which is



grown there in immense quantities, somewhat as alfalfa is grown in the irrigated plains of the West. It was in Gatinais that the custom of inverting hives began, in order to secure the largest possible quantity of honey from the bees, regardless of future consequences. For that reason the bee-keepers of Gatinais were compelled to replenish their apiaries every season with bees brought from away, as their only aim was to secure the largest possible quantity of sainfoin honey during the short period of its bloom, and many of their bees perished during the following winter.

Although sainfoin has already been tried in the United States with unfavorable results, I believe it is worth while to try it again, especially in the countries where the alfalfa succeeds well. It might prove a useful honey-plant.

We must, however, not close our eyes to the fact that honey-plants do not yield honey in the same proportion in all localities. White clover, which is the source of so large a crop of white honey in this country, is absolutely useless as a honey-producer in some other countries. Edouard Bertrand, the editor of the *Revue Internationale*, told me positively that there never had been any white clover honey harvested in Switzerland by any of his friends, although it is quite common in the Swiss meadows.

The Caucasian Prickley Comfrey, introduced years ago in America by Arthur Todd, as a very profuse producer of honey, has been tried and cast away in disgust. No bees are even seen upon its blossoms in this section of the country. The *Echinops spheroccephalus*, "Chapman honey-plant", has proven a fake, after having been in such demand that its seed was selling at \$5 per pound.

While I was in Switzerland I was shown a plant which had been nicknamed the "Bee's Bar-Room"—"cabaret des abeilles"—because bees were constantly upon its bloom without securing any results.

The goldenrod, so highly prized for its honey in New England is of no value on the shores of the Mississippi as a honey-plant, in Illinois at least, for neither I nor any of my friends interested in bees have ever noticed the bees securing any surplus from it.

We must, therefore, be very cautious in recommending a plant as a honey-producer, unless it has been thoroughly tested. But in the case of the sainfoin, if it can be grown at all, there is no risk to run of its causing any loss of time or money, for its yields as a producer of "healthy hay" would be sufficient to recommend it to the farmers of the land.

Such plants, however, as the Prickley Comfrey and the *Echinops* would better be left out entirely, for they are noxious weeds not even fit for cattle to consume. A plant which is useful to the farmer is acceptable at any time, but a weed which cattle will refuse ought not to be grown for honey-production.

Hancock Co., Ill.

## Bees in Jamaica—Other Subjects.

BY ROBERT WEST.

I HAVE been very busy preparing for the perishing season (hard times, as the natives call it), from September to December; yet stole time enough to look over the "Old Reliable", to see how the rest of the bee-world is moving.

We may not profess to be vain, and may even repudiate the idea, yet all seem to like to be noticed, and probably no one but a luna wishes to talk while nobody gives attention. Your "comi-critic" has cast a glance across to Jamaica; and while we have much to thank him for, not only in the little whipping up, but in calling our attention to many good things from others, which, in our haste, we have overlooked; yet he is getting too *Hasty*, or he would not call those few rays from this island "brilliant". I wish he would come to live here awhile, where we have not only the little "fire-flies" from the North, but huge "lightning bugs" one to two inches long, with eight electric lamps around each eye, which, when the current is turned on, light up their course for several yards ahead, and they dart through the air like meteors.

When I came here even the stars seemed four times as numerous, and four times the magnitude, so that starlight was as moonlight; and when the moon cast in her reflections we could sit on the lawn and read without a lamp, and the bees would come as if to see if we were eating comb honey; and ere daybreak the blooming thorn-bush sang,

"The hum of the bees  
In the logwood trees".

But when that great luminary "Sol" arose from his slumbers, and, with face unveiled, peeped over the moun-

tains down the western slope at us, we looked up and said "that is beautiful", and stood watching the everchanging scene of light and shade as he searched the green herbage on each hillock and along each ridge and valley till, with feeling of rapture, we exclaimed "this is grand!" and both we and our little workers toiled away. We enjoyed his light till about 10 o'clock, when the magnificence of his glory became so great we could not look up at his brilliant face, and the beams came through this clear atmosphere so forcibly that both the bees and we sought shelter, some of them under the hives, while others wore their wings out fanning to keep their combs from melting, and their mother, with her young babes, from suffocating; and in a common box, without glass top, we saw our fragments of comb turning into cakes of wax. Even our "red" wax was bleached white.

### COLOR OF WAX.

Pure wax, as made by the bees, I always thought was *white* till I came here, and saw that while some colonies were building white combs, others beside them built yellow. The cause I know not. Perhaps some of the readers can inform us. In the North, where cattle were confined in stalls and fed to grossness, the fat of some was yellow, when others from the same stable dressed white. The former, some epicures said, was the better meat—more juicy, sweet, and enjoyable; while some pathologists said this color was caused by bile, and this meat was not fit for food. Now is the color of bee-fat caused by the color of pollen each colony is in the habit of dining upon, or are some colonies "bilious"?

### FEEDING OF QUEENS AND DRONES.

Queens, as well as drones, feed themselves. We have done a little more "trifling", watching numerous drones feed not from flowers but combs, and one day I uncapped 3 queen-cells about hatching, and put the young queens at open cells of nectar. Two drank a few moments, the other a quarter of a minute. It looks like the suggestion of your correspondent, "that they are only seeking drink", may be true, for there is a surplus of royal jelly, but no juice, in the cell after the queen emerges.

A worker seemed to offer food to the one that drank so much, which she refused. After the third refusal it handled her roughly a few seconds when she reciprocated a moment and was allowed to go in peace.

### YOUNG QUEENS IN DRONE-CELLS.

In the midst of drone-comb was one cell built horizontal, but a little longer than the surrounding ones. The cap got rubbed off and a young queen was extracted whose abdomen was folded under the thorax; otherwise she seemed perfect, and the bees might have cut away the cell and let her out. But how came this queen-larva here—by the mother laying, porters carrying, nurses feeding and housing, or how?

### QUEENS WITH RUDIMENTARY WINGS.

We have seen 2 queens born with only rudimentary wings, and could not fly. Full sisters in adjacent cells are all right. What is the cause? Their mother was bought from a breeder who has practiced clipping for years. Could such malformation by art in time cause "sports" to be produced by Nature? Will mating in confinement become a necessity with the "scientific" queen-breeder?

### QUEENS' OUTINGS AFTER LAYING.

The actions of young queens were watched in a small nuclei with about a *handful* of bees each. Of six, 2 were absent at midday after laying. A few days later one had not returned; the other had laid some more eggs and was again absent. A few days later she, too, had not returned. Now their final disappearance is easily accounted for in this country where they have so many bird, reptile, and insect enemies, but how about the one returning and laying fresh eggs? Again, from another set of large nuclei, where queens were put to mate, some were missing. Later we found some of these in hives that were queenless and in colonies that had superseded their queens, preferring these. They were imported stock, and no other bees on the island like them. It looks like young queens, like drones, were free commoners.

Again, to make room for an imported Cyprian, we took a golden queen from her hive with two combs and a few bees. A week later, in looking up our Cyprians, we found the golden, although her bees were still in the nucleus where the two combs were put with her. It *seems* she had gone out alone, and on her return went to the old hive. Does Nature keep in working order muscles without exer-

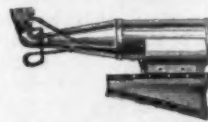
cise for a year or two? Does the queen help the young bees fan the hive, or keep herself in trim to stand a journey of some miles with a swarm, by going out for those health-giving conditions, fresh air, sunlight and exercise?

If bees have no ears, how originated the idea of rattling tin pans to cause a swarm to cluster? One day we had a colony in the operating room (operating in open air not

being practiced where robbers are so abundant). The bees were all quiet when I started scraping a pan. Those in the hive forthwith started to sing "Home, Sweet Home". Those on the floor, and even on the window-sill, started to march toward the hive, singing as they went. If bees did this in Egypt a few thousand years ago, there has been ample time for the idea to grow. Jamaica, W. I.



## Proceedings of Conventions



### Report of the Southwest Texas Convention.

BY W. H. LAWS, SEC. PRO TEM.

(Continued from page 775.)

Then followed a discussion on the sizes of honey-cans. While there was a decided tendency to reduce the size of the two 60-pounds in a box, both for comb and extracted honey, it was thought best not to interfere at present unless the whole State will agree and adopt something less in size as a standard, for the dealers will have to carry a stock of the size named until all bee-associations in the State will adopt another size. On motion, it was decided to allow the use of the same standard packages as adopted by the State Association some years since.

The matter of transportation was taken up, and W. H. Laws, chairman of the committee appointed by the State Association, reported that in correspondence with representatives of the various freight and express companies, we are assured that by proper presentation by our bee-keepers' associations to the railroad commission, the concessions asked for will be granted.

The subject of the adulteration of honey was taken up, and it was reported that very little, if any, adulterated honey could be found on the market in Texas.

It was recommended by the Association that we adopt a trade label guaranteeing the purity of our honey, and, if practicable, join some honey-producers' association, warehouse our honey, and wait the proper time for placing our product on the market, as the rush on the early honey market by all the producers at one time has a tendency to demoralize the market, and prices would rule low the entire season, as they have this season—with a very short crop behind it the honey market is reported bare, and buyers eager, with little honey to be found. It was suggested that in the face of the cry of adulteration it is now a good time for the adulterators of honey to trot out their stuff, and it is conclusive that most of the honey that has been pronounced as adulterated by the ignorant was all pure honey.

It was ascertained that all the bee-keepers present were producers of bulk comb and extracted honey, and that there was no section honey produced except for exhibition purposes.

The president then called for those to stand who expected to produce section honey the coming season. None stood. Mr. Hyde then stated that it was his intention to produce section honey, and that the market on bulk comb was in danger of being overstocked.

#### EVENING SESSION.

The following members were appointed to arrange for the entertainment of the National Bee-Keepers' Association if it meets in the city of San Antonio next fall: H. H. Hyde, Udo Toepperwein, and A. I. Davis.

D. C. Milam, of Uvalde County, then read a paper on the

### PRODUCTION AND GRADING OF EXTRACTED HONEY.

As I have been asked to talk on the production and grading of extracted honey, I will give a little of my experience in the last 20 years.

The first thing necessary is a good queen and plenty of bees at the right time. In order to have these it is necessary, some years, to feed them honey and artificial pollen. The bee-keeper must be the judge of that matter in the locality in which his bees are located. In our locality we need plenty of bees the first of April.

Another essential is to give the bees plenty of room at the right time. The smaller the hive the oftener one has to

work them. Having tried several kinds of hives, I find the 10-frame dovetail suits me best. And as to the frame used, I prefer the all-wood Simplicity. I, myself, never extract, but always have assistants to do that, and they all prefer that kind of frame. The last two years I have tried shallow extracting frames, but they all prefer the Simplicity. I have also tried the Hoffman, but none of them like it.

Ten frames to the hive is preferable for extracted honey. In our locality the 9-frame hive frequently melts down, unless the frames are well built at the bottom. I also like a queen-excluder over the brood-chamber.

In order to produce first-class honey it is best not to let it remain on the hives too long. Our early honey is very thick when gathered, and it is often necessary to extract it by the time the frame is two-thirds sealed. If the honey is allowed to remain in old combs long, it will change its color and flavor. It never makes catclaw and "wahea" honey any better to stay on the hives. It should be extracted as soon as it is ripe, and it is often ripe before it is all sealed; but of course a bee-keeper should never extract unripe honey.

When honey is extracted it should be strained, put into a vessel to stand until it settles, and then drawn off in cans. I find that a galvanized-iron tank is best to pour the honey in to settle. A wooden barrel is a nuisance in our part of the country, as it is always leaking. Never draw off honey so low that particles of comb run out of the tank into the can.

Honey, to be first-class, should be free from foreign substances, light in color, and of pleasant flavor.

D. C. MILAM.

Considerable discussion followed, in which the fact was brought out that it took some skill in producing a first-class article of extracted as well as of comb honey. Mr. Milam then told how, on one occasion, he had extracted honey too closely, and later his bees were at the point of starvation; that he had for two weeks gathered the large, ripe prickly-pears that so plentifully abounded in his locality, pounded them up in a large trough, and had not only kept his bees alive, but they had used the juice of the pear in breeding up for the honey-flow that followed, but he advised that it was cheaper and better to buy a low grade of sugar instead; that the bees only took the pear-juice because they had to.

On motion a committee was appointed to confer with the associations of the State, asking that a scale of prices be made for first-grade bulk-comb and extracted honey, so that we can in harmony and intelligently price honey to the trade the coming season.

Willie Atchley, Dr. C. S. Phillips, Harley Johnson, Dr. J. B. Treon, D. M. Edwards, W. D. Bunting, W. O. Victor, H. H. Hyde, W. E. Rector, and L. Stachelhausen were appointed as such committee.

On motion the following scale of prices was recommended by this Association: Bulk comb, 9c; extracted, 7c; taken on a two 60-pound basis.

The committee is to supply the prices for the lower grades.

W. O. Victor told of the trapping and killing of eight bears in his apiaries; also of the experiment of shipping a car-load of bees to Colorado to catch the flow from alfalfa. Although cool weather and frequent hail-storms came that way, the experiment was a success. A vote of thanks was extended to Mr. Victor for his excellent talk.

Will Atchley told of the successful landing of a car-load of bees in Kansas the present season.

Then followed a long and interesting discussion on



queens and queen-rearing. It was recommended that the queen-breeders organize a protective association. On motion of W. O. Victor, it was decided that at present queen-breeders should exchange "black-lists". It was brought out that at certain times certain individuals will order queens and bees from nearly all the leading queen-breeders at the same time, with the intent of defrauding; then no more could be heard from them. This fact was brought out

more fully by the exchange of names of those who had defrauded the queen-breeders present at this convention. It was requested also that we ask some one of the leading bee-papers to assist us in this matter.

The following were elected as officers for the ensuing year: President, H. H. Hyde; vice-president, Will Atchley; secretary, A. I. Davis.

W. H. LAWS, *Sec. pro tem.*



## Our Bee-Keeping Sisters



Conducted by EMMA M. WILSON, Marengo, Ill.

### Women at Bee-Conventions.

Indications are that the attendance of the sisters at bee-conventions is steadily, if slowly, on the increase. The time was when they were as scarce as men at a prayer-meeting, and the first comer was always in terror for fear she would be the only one of her sex in attendance. Not that the brethren have ever made any objection to the sisters coming—in fact, they have always seemed glad to have the sisters come—but somehow the sisters didn't come. Perhaps they didn't know what an interesting place was a live convention of bee-keepers. Many a thing to be learned there that you can't get from the books or bee-papers. Then it's a pleasant thing to see in the flesh many a one whose writings in the papers have given you a desire for a better acquaintance.

If any of the sisters wants to attend the liveliest kind of a live convention, let her come to Chicago Nov. 30. No need to fear that they'll seat you between two of the brethren—unless you prefer that sort of seating—for there are always enough of the sisters to be bunched together in a very sociable sort of way. Wouldn't it be a nice thing if enough of the sisters could be there to have it reported that the percent of sisters in attendance was greater than at the National or any of the State conventions? There are easily enough of the sisters within convenient reach of Chicago to make such a thing possible.

Another thing: Don't forget to bring along any question that you'd like to hear discussed; not necessary to put your name to it, just put it in when the hat is passed. The question-box is likely to be the best part of the convention.

### Honey and Sugar Chemically Considered—Some Reflections on Mr. E. E. Hasty's "Afterthoughts".

Relative to the subject of the crystallization of sugar in honeys, it is my opinion that when a normal dilute honey is allowed to stand for some time, either in a warm place or when open to evaporation, the crystals which deposit are crystals of dextrose, and the supernatant liquid contains the levulose. It has been shown in the laboratory of the Illinois State Food Commission that these crystals so deposited have a dextrorotatory power, while the liquid por-

tion above the crystals is levorotary to a greater extent than normal honey. It requires a concentrated solution of honey to deposit levulose in any form, as levulose does not crystallize or granulate readily. To have granulated or candied honey, we must have a concentrated honey which has been allowed to stand for a time in a warm place, or in open air, or both.

In my opinion the dextrose crystallizes first, and the levulose intermixed granulates, and these sugars so deposited form the honey that is marketed in paper bags.

I do not believe that the dextrose of honey will eventually be found to be a varying mixture of several different compounds, nor do I believe we should entertain such a thought respecting the simple sugars. They have repeatedly been proven to be simple chemical substances of carbon, hydrogen and oxygen atoms. The term "glucose" is liable to be confounded when, as we permit it now, it may refer to either pure dextrose or to a mixture of dextrose and dextrin. The former is a definite simple substance, and the latter a compound of a sugar and a gum. Watt and Allen look with favor upon the plan of calling the pure glucose, dextrose; and the commercial glucose, glucose. The sooner we learn to designate each by these terms the sooner will a good deal of inconvenience in naming these substances be done away with. There are enough chemical terms already in the nomenclature of the chemical realm, and anything which has a tendency to lessen our woes in this line I am sure will receive a glad welcome from both chemists and laymen. May we all aid as far as we can to speed that day.

Cook Co., Ill.

(Miss) LUCY F. DOGGETT,  
*Assistant State Analyst of Illinois.*

### Beauty Lotion—Honey-Cake.

A lotion to whiten the skin is made by combining four ounces strained honey, one ounce glycerin, one ounce rose water, three drams citric acid, and six drops essence of ambergris. Apply a little to face and hands two or three times a week, using a linen pad for the purpose.—Chicago Record-Herald.

Honey-Cake—One cupful of extracted honey, one-half cup beef drippings, two cupfuls flour, two scant teaspoonfuls soda, two eggs, one cupful candied seedless grapes from which the juice has been strained, one-half cupful of the juice, one teaspoonful each of ginger, cinnamon and nutmeg. Bake and serve as gingerbread.



## Mr. Hasty's Afterthoughts



The "Old Reliable" seen through New and Unreliable Glasses. By E. E. HASTY, Sta. B Rural, Toledo, Ohio.

### CALIFORNIA ALFALFA—NECTAR-SECRETION.

We didn't expect to hear that part of California itself was as badly off as ourselves in failing to get honey from alfalfa. California is the Plymouth Rock on which alfalfa landed; and there has been considerable time for the adjustment of the plant to the climate, if that is what is wanted.

I hope our excellent Prof. Cook will not think I object just for the purpose of being hateful to his conclusion about the cause of honey-secretion. Seems to me that the conclusion is inconclusive, both as a matter of theoretical logic and also as a practical matter. I grant that a moist soil, a dry atmosphere, and heat, are three very excellent condi-

tions to start with; but they hardly comprise all—perhaps not even almost all. I would submit this:

The cause of abundant nectar-secretion is the *joint presence* of several different things; and apparently we do not yet recognize all the items. The best conditions for pollenization, the best conditions for the right insects to be out, and the best conditions for nectar-secretion, are likely to be identical, seeing they three work together for a joint purpose in Nature. It even looks as if moist atmosphere and dry atmosphere did some *alternating* at the behest of other items in making up the best set of conditions. During some phenomenal flows dry air—and during some phenomenal flows moist air—is the way I think we'll find it when a full supply of observations is in. Page 693.

#### INDOOR WINTERING OF BEES.

H. R. Boardman is high authority on wintering bees, and his ripened, life-long conclusions merit our careful study. He is rather unique in having good success above ground. We may well suspect that bare above-ground and below-ground count for nothing—only the pertinent conditions, conditions, *conditions*, which happen to be a little easier to secure when below. Some of us would have built the rooms without windows. Perhaps his windows and the admission of light as long as the bees will bear it may have counted quite heavily in his favor. Much has been negatived and much has been changed during the long years. A complicated system of ventilation was thrown away as worse than useless. Quietening the bees when they roar by letting in outside air at night has also been abandoned as worse than useless. (Quiets the bees temporarily, but increases the mischief that caused the disquiet in the first place—makes them start more brood.) Manifestly it takes time and brains, and close observation, to reach the hardpan of correct practice when it lies as far down as that. Setting bees out for a flight, and putting them back again, has been

negatived—also waiting for a warm, pleasant day to set them out for keeps. Fire he finds good when needed, only it must be in an adjoining room, and the warm air used with discretion. He "sour grapes" exact evenness of temperature because he has not been able to secure it. That probably is one of the penalties which he pays for being above ground. Favors for the latter part of the winter a temperature higher than most of the brethren prefer. Perhaps that's "sweet grapes"—easier to secure than not; and he finds it can be tolerated. His last great change is a singular one. Gives up the manifest advantage of bees in two rooms in order to have a larger volume of perfectly pure air to conjure with. Pages 694 and 696.

#### HONEY-TREES ON THE MOUNTAINS.

Honey-trees on a rugged mountain, and such culls that nobody wants them for lumber, constitute a very valuable asset for the bee-man. Page 700.

#### ON THE WIRING SHALLOW FRAMES.

Seven of the experts want shallow frames wired, and 19 say no—some inclining to negative wiring both for shallow frames and deep ones. Page 709.

#### SOME OF THE BEE-KEEPERS' GLUCOSE STORIES.

Prof. Eaton gets after us with a very sharp and penetrating stick, anent the fibs we tell about glucose, because we hate the stuff so. We see ourselves picking ourselves up and remarking that we didn't know that it was loaded. But for all that we should manage to remember the important facts, that hydrochloric acid, and not sulphuric acid, is used in glucose factories in this country; and soda, not lime, for the neutralizing alkali. We've been attacking a man of straw while the real man sat on the fence and grinned. Page 710.



## Ask Doctor Miller

# ??

Send Questions either to the office of the American Bee Journal, or to Dr. C. C. MILLER, Marengo, Ill.

### Colony Queenless Late in Fall.

If you had a colony of bees quite strong with a lot of drones, that was discovered as late as Nov. 1 to be queenless, what would you do with it? ILLINOIS.

ANSWER.—I don't know; it would depend upon circumstances. Before doing anything with it, I should want to be quite sure it was queenless. "A lot of drones" in a strong colony in the fall is not always sure proof of queenlessness, although something depends upon how large the "lot" is. The absence of all brood Nov. 1 is no proof of queenlessness, neither is the failure to find a queen, for the queen is hard to find, because small. Unless you have some stronger proof than the presence of drones, better leave it till spring, and then break it up, dividing the combs and bees among your weakest colonies. If sure it is queenless, you can break it up now. In any case it will do no great harm to leave it till spring.

### Wintering Bees—Probably Chilled Brood.

1. My bees are in bad condition, and I should like to know how large the cluster should be in diameter in order to insure its safe wintering.

2. What should be the amount of its winter stores for wintering indoors?

3. Last spring I discovered a few colonies affected with some disease which looked like pickled brood. There was some dead brood, sealed and unsealed, which disappeared when warm weather came, so I thought it was chilled brood. What was it? NEW YORK.

ANSWERS.—1. It's hard to put in cubic inches just how small a cluster might be to get through the winter all right. Under favorable circumstances, with just the right temperature and ventilation, quite a small cluster may pull

through in a good cellar, even one with only enough bees to fully cover two combs. The chances are much better if there are enough bees to cover three combs, and if there are bees enough to cover four or more combs there ought to be no trouble.

2. That varies very greatly. It is not so much what they consume while in the cellar, as the amount they need when brood-rearing goes on after the bees are taken out of the cellar. The safe thing is to have 30 pounds of honey for stores, although not the half of that may be needed in the cellar.

3. Hard to say. Likely it was only chilled brood, but it will be well to keep a sharp lookout next year.

### Foundation in the Sections—Unfinished Sections—Swarms Returning to the Parent Hive.

1. Do you use thin or extra-thin foundation in the sections? I have been using thin, and find the bees cut lots of it out of the sections.

2. Do you use, or know of, any extractor that can be used for extracting honey from unfinished sections, regular size?

3. I was troubled with prime swarms returning to the parent hive last spring. After putting them in nice, clean, new hives they would go back to the old hive. Some four or five did that, three of them coming out again in a week, the others not coming out again at all. This was the first year they ever did this. Was it general all over the country last year, or was it the fault of the queen? MISSOURI.

ANSWERS.—1. I use thin. The extra-thin is torn down by the bees worse than the thin. If you use the thin you will probably not have much trouble about tearing down, unless you leave the sections on a good deal too long after the harvest is over.

2. Yes, I have extracted unfinished sections, but not of



late years. By returning unfinished sections as "go-backs" up to the very last of the harvest, the number of unfinished sections will be comparatively small, and those that have too little honey in them to be used at home, or sold at reduced price, are emptied by the bees. Any extractor can be used for extracting sections. Make a frame to hold the sections similar to the wide frames used by some for surplus honey; put coarse wire-cloth on one side, or fasten wires on it, and by a little care in handling you will need nothing more. Or, you can have a wire side to fasten on after the sections are put in the frame.

3. I think there was no general complaint of that kind, and the year probably had nothing to do with it. Something in the condition of queens or colonies was accountable for the trouble no doubt, and under exactly the same conditions you may look for the same results next year, or any year.

### Tiny Insects and Comb Honey.

When I take off comb honey, removing the sections from the section-holders, I always find hundreds of tiny insects resembling chicken-lice. I would like to know what they are.

LOUISIANA.

ANSWER.—I haven't any idea what they are—never heard anything of the kind before. You don't say whether they are in the supers when taken first from the hives, or whether they get in afterward, but I suppose they get in afterward, as I don't believe the bees would suffer them while the supers are yet on the hive. The only "small fry" to be found in the hives are the bee-lice, which are somewhat troublesome in Europe, but for some reason do not flourish on this side.

### Cellar-Wintering of Bees.

If I raise the hives one inch from the bottom-boards will that be ventilation enough for cellar-wintering?

WISCONSIN.

ANSWER.—That will do very well; if you mean the hive is raised so that there is under it an inch space on all four sides, probably a deeper space would do no better; but if you mean there is a space only at the front, a deeper space would be a little better. My bottom-boards are two inches deep, with the whole front open and the other sides closed.

### Extra Stories Under the Colony.

My bees are in 8-frame dovetailed hives, and are wintered on the summer stands in a sheltered place. Last month I put a second hive with frames (not full) of honey, or a super with sections not all capped, under each one. Most, or all, of the honey has been carried up. Shall I remove the extra hive or super, or shall I leave them as they are? And why? Colonies are all strong, and have abundant stores.

NEW YORK.

ANSWER.—Likely it will be better to leave the extra stories underneath. It makes less danger of dead bees clogging the entrance, and the cluster can not so directly be affected by the outside air. But it may be better to reduce to one story when the bees get to flying daily in the spring; they like to have their brood-nest pretty close to the fresh air.

See Langstroth Book Offer on another page of this copy of the American Bee Journal.

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## Engravings For Sale

We are accumulating quite a stock of engravings that have been used in the American Bee Journal. No doubt many of them could be used again by bee-keepers in their local newspapers, on their stationery, or in other ways. Also, if we can sell some of them it would help us to pay for others that we are constantly having made and using in our columns. If there is any of our engravings that any one would like to have, just let us know and we will quote a very low price, postpaid. Address,

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## STRAWBERRY AND VEGETABLE DEALERS

The Passenger Department of the Illinois Central Railroad Company have recently issued a publication known as Circular No. 12, in which is described the

### best territory in this country

for the growing of early strawberries and early vegetables. Every dealer in such products should address a postal card to the undersigned at DUBUQUE, IOWA, requesting a copy of "Circular No. 12."

J. F. MERRY, Asst. Gen'l Pass'r Agent.  
32A20t Please mention the Bee Journal.



## Reports and Experiences

### Honey Crop Almost a Failure.

I have 67 colonies of bees, mostly Italians, but this has been a hard year on them in this locality. The spring was wet and cold, and they almost starved. We got no surplus from white clover, then the fall flowers bloomed in all their glory, and the bees began to hum merrily, but the nights were too cold. I secured only one-third as much honey as last year. Two banner colonies stored 3 supers each in about 30 days. These were golden Italians. We hope for better things next year.

I can't give up the "Old Reliable", even if the honey crop is almost a failure. I love to read it.

W. R. M. COYLE.

Vernon Co., Mo., Nov. 14.

### Method of Rearing Good Queen-Cells.

In my letter, page 740, the sentence that reads, "So far as good queen-cells are concerned their equal never was", should have read, "So far as good

queen-cells are concerned their equal may have been, but their better never was". Well, that would sound better,

### This Lightning Lice Killing Machine

kills all lice and mites. No injury to birds or feathers. Handles any fowl, smallest chick to largest gobbler. Made in three sizes. Pays for itself first season. Also Lightning Lice Killing Powder, Poultry Lice, Lice Murder, etc. We secure special low express rates. Catalog mailed free. Write for it.

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As I desire to unite my nuclei as soon as possible, I will sell **ITALIAN QUEENS** at the following low prices, until my present supply is exhausted:

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## Original Direct-Draft Bee-Smoker.

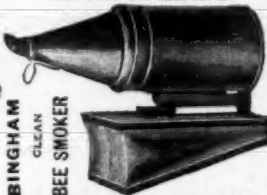
26 Years. BEST ON EARTH.

I think a few of the many letters I receive will interest you more than anything I could write. Of course you would like to know why Bingham Smokers are so popular. The answer is simple. They are always ready, FULL OF SMOKE, and burn anything dryish and never go out just when you want to smoke the most and quick. I have not room to tell all about them, but they DO ALL the above things to perfection. But what I wish to say is:

**SEND FOR CIRCULAR.**

**T. F. BINGHAM, Farwell, Mich.**

DEAR SIR:—We have used and sold all the advertised smokers, but find none that suit us as well, or that find as much favor with our patrons as the Bingham smoker. They have no equal.  
May 19, 1904.  
THE FRED W. MUTH CO., Cincinnati, Ohio.



## Mont. Vista.

This delightful 20-acre place situated at Griffin, Ga., is now for sale. 1000 feet above sea-level, affords a delightful climate. Especially suited for poultry, bees, and small fruit. Griffin is a manufacturing town of 8000, making a home market at high prices. Full particulars from owner.

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That covers the whole Apicultural Field more completely than any other published,  
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—FOR HIS—

**"Bee-Keeper's Guide."**

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too, as I believe some others can rear just as good queen-bees as I can.

The frame shown on page 737, and again herewith, is not intended to have cells drawn in, but merely to hold them from the time they are sealed until they are to be caged (5 or 6 days) in

colony. I keep 4-frame nuclei for this purpose, letting them fertilize a queen every other week. Then a laying queen is introduced in the colony in which the cells were completed. If the same queen that was taken from them is returned (they can be kept caged), I



some queenless colony. The cells are grafted and placed between the top-bars of a colony that has not been queenless longer than 12 to 18 hours. (I usually make the colony queenless in the evening, and graft the cells the next noon.) By removing one frame from a 10-frame hive one can spread the frames in three places, and three cells may be placed in each of the outside rows, and four in the center one. In 5 days the cells (I usually get about 8) will be sealed, and should be removed to the frames and placed in a queenless

colony. I don't bother about destroying the cells that they may have built on the combs, but I give them a good smoking at sundown, and let their queen run in at the entrance. If honey isn't coming in freely I feed honey—sugar is not fit to rear queen-bees on, if I am to be the judge. I dilute the honey with water, and get about the same results as though honey were coming in. A new colony is used each time, and they will keep on pounding away in the supers almost the same as if they had not been disturbed. The colony should

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**GUS DITTMER, Augusta, Wis.**



not be used again until the queen is making the second round, about 4 or 5 weeks later. The cells shown measure (taking them from left to right) the first, one inch; the second, 99-100; the fifth, 87-100 below the base of the shell, and extend  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{3}{8}$  of an inch in the shell. About  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch below the base of the shell is as short as I save, destroying those that are under that.

CHAS. M. DARROW.

Vernon Co., Mo.

### The "Bidsom" Bee-Feeder Again.

Referring to Dr. Miller's answer to "Illinois", on page 698, I would say there is no advantage of the so-called "Bidsom Feeder", described on page 588, over the "Original Miller Feeder", as shown in "Forty Years Among the Bees", on page 125, for it is simply that idea adapted to the Danzenbaker super which I am using; but as a home-made article its advantages over the improved "Miller Feeder", as listed in supply catalogs at 35 cents each, are these:

1. Its cost is practically nothing, to any one in the least handy with tools in cutting up old store-boxes.

2. Its use with the Danzenbaker super, being made up separate so as to hang inside of the super; and which, by slight alteration, may also be set on the end (tin) supports inside of any other ordinary section super.

That is all; no competition what-

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to all points on the Nickel Plate Road between Chicago and Buffalo. Excursion tickets on sale Dec. 24, 25, 26, and 31, 1904, and Jan. 1 and 2, 1905, good returning Jan. 4, 1905. Three through express trains daily. No excess fare charged on any train. Also lowest rates and shortest line to Cleveland, Buffalo, New York, Boston, and all eastern points. Modern sleeping and dining cars. Individual Club Meals, ranging in price from 35 cents, to \$1.00, served in Nickel Plate dining-cars; also service a la carte. All trains leave from La Salle Street Station, Chicago. City ticket office, Chicago, Ill., 111 Adams Street, and Auditorium Annex. For further particulars address, John Y. Calahan, General Agent, 113 Adams Street, room 298. 33-47A5t

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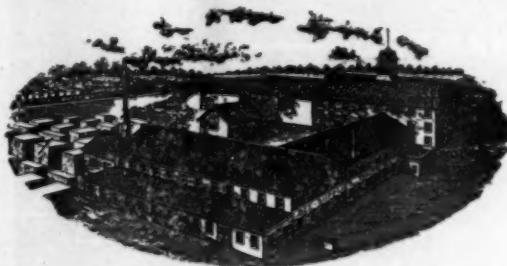
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To absolutely please bee keepers in filling their wants has been our constant aim for eight years, and while we do not boast about ourselves we are sure that we are excelled by nobody. If you are not already a customer don't fail to write to us and tell us your wants.

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ever either in trade or in ideas; only a cheap, handy, home-made, serviceable arrangement for top-feeding, adapted from ideas already advanced by others.

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Carbon Co., Pa.

### Bees in Box-Hives—Spraying Fruit-Trees.

My bees averaged 50 pounds, spring count, last year, and only about 25 pounds this year, owing to serious loss by high water. I have had bees for several years, but kept them the old way—in boxes—and got very little honey until the last two years. I chanced to get a bee-paper which gave me many pointers, and while not yet an expert, I have a small library of bee books and papers which help me out.

Bees in this vicinity are almost all kept in boxes, and their owners say, "Bee-keeping doesn't pay". I have 59 colonies, and find a home market that I can't nearly supply. I use small frames, 4 $\frac{1}{2}$  x 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ , instead of pound sections in the supers, and sell chunk honey.

I make my hives during winter days, and use four colors of paint so as to have no two alike in color in the same

## TENNESSEE QUEENS



Daughters of Select Imported Italian, Select Long-Tongue (Moore's), and Select Golden, bred 3 $\frac{1}{2}$  miles apart, and mated to Select Drones. No impure bees within 3 miles, and but few within 5 miles. No disease; 31 years' experience. All mismated queens replaced free. Safe arrival guaranteed.

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|                       | 1                      | 6      | 12     | 1               | 6      | 12     |
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Send for Circular.

JOHN M. DAVIS, Spring Hill, Tenn.

### For Sale—Car of Alfalfa Honey

The California Bee-Keepers' Association has now ready for sale at 5 cents per pound, **ONE CAR LOAD OF ALFALFA HONEY**—to be delivered L.o.b. at Selma, Fresno Co., Calif.

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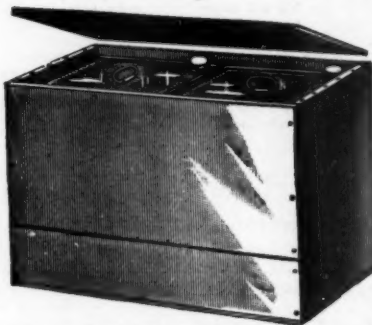
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This is the well-known light-colored honey gathered from the rich, nectar-laden basswood blossoms. It has a stronger flavor than Alfalfa, and is preferred by those who like a distinct flavor in their honey.

#### Prices of Alfalfa or Basswood Honey:

A sample of either, by mail, 10 cents, to pay for package and postage. By freight—two 60-pound cans of Alfalfa, 8 $\frac{1}{2}$  cents per pound; 4 cans or more, 8 cents a pound. Basswood Honey, half-cent more per pound than Alfalfa prices. Cash must accompany each order. You can order half of each kind of honey, if you so desire. The cans are two in a box, and freight is not prepaid. **ABSOLUTELY PURE BEES' HONEY.**

#### Order the Above Honey and then Sell It.

We would suggest that those bee-keepers who did not produce enough honey for their home demand, just order some of the above, and sell it. And others, who want to earn some money, can get this honey and work up a demand for it almost anywhere.

THE YORK HONEY CO. (Not Inc.)

HENRY M. ARND, Manager.

101 E. Kinzie Street, CHICAGO, ILL.

group. I have but little trouble with queenless colonies. I have 20 acres of trees and small fruits which I spray heavily every year with arsenic, and have no bees poisoned, by spraying after the bloom falls. I regard the work of the bees in fertilizing the bloom of more value in the fruit crop than the honey they obtain from the bloom. I think there should be 5 colonies to every acre of bearing fruit-trees of average size, to secure thorough pollenization of the young fruit.

My box-hive neighbors are not ready to subscribe for the Bee Journal, but don't fail to send it to me.

J. W. TUCKER.

Linn Co., Kans., Nov. 1.

### Poor Honey Year—Japanese Buckwheat.

I commenced in the spring with 15 colonies, and increased to 25. I have taken from 17 colonies 870 pounds of No. 1 section honey, selling my entire crop for 15 cents per pound, about 20 miles from my apiary.

My best colony this year produced 88 pounds of section honey. This was a poor honey year here, notwithstanding there was an abundance of white clover, but there was not much nectar in it; too cold and too much rain.

From 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  acres of buckwheat I got 300 pounds of honey and 50 bushels of seed, which is worth \$1.25 a bushel. It's the pure Japanese variety.

I have been taking the American Bee Journal one year, and it is grand. I couldn't possibly do without it.

A. E. PATTON.

Lawrence Co., Mo., Oct. 24.

### Honey Crop Below the Average—Red-Clover Queens.

The honey crop in this locality was below the average, and in some places it was poor. I harvested about 2000 pounds from 29 colonies, spring count, 1600 pounds of which was extracted and 400 comb honey. It was all gathered from white clover. Basswood bloomed, but the bees could gather nothing from it. The demand for honey is larger than the supply.

I haven't much faith in red-clover queens. Each year, in this locality, there are from 200 to 300 acres of red clover within easy reach of the bees, and I have tried a few red-clover queens, but their bees gathered no more honey than the others. Of course they gather a little, but we can not talk of a big red-clover crop.

HUGO MAEDER.

Washington Co., Wis., Nov. 16.

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MAGAZINE, largest, brightest and finest ILLUSTRATED MAGAZINE in the world for 10c a year, to introduce it ONLY.

It is bright and up-to-date. Tells all about Southern Home Life. It is full of fine engravings of grand scenery, buildings and famous people. Send at once. 1c a year, postpaid, anywhere in the U.S., Canada and Mexico. Six years, 50c. Or, clubs of 6 names, 50c; 12 for \$1. Send us a club. Money back if not delighted. Stamps taken. Cut this out. Send to-day. THE DIXIE HOME, 2444st No. 75, Birmingham, Alabama.

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## CONVENTION NOTICES.

**Illinois.**—The Chicago-Northwestern Beekeepers' Association will hold its next annual meeting on Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, 1904, in the Revere House, southeast corner of North Clark and Michigan Sts., Chicago. The prospects are that this convention will be the largest and best ever held by the Chicago-Northwestern. Prominent beekeepers from a distance have said they were coming. It will be a great time. Everybody at all interested in bees or bee-keeping is urgently invited to be present. There will be live discussions of live subjects relating to bee-keeping. Come. It's Nov. 30 and Dec. 1. And Chicago is the place!

Park Ridge, Ill. HERMAN F. MOORE, Sec.

**Pennsylvania.**—The Pennsylvania State Beekeepers' Association will hold its fall convention in Harrisburg, Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 6 and 7, 1904. An excellent program has been arranged. Many subjects of vital interest will be ably presented. General Manager N.E. France, of the National Beekeepers' Association, will be present, as well as other prominent beekeepers. Every bee-keeper in Pennsylvania should interest himself in this meeting.

Muncy, Pa. D. L. WOODS, Sec.

**Minnesota.**—The Minnesota Beekeepers' Association will hold its next session in the First Unitarian Church, corner 8th St. and Mary Place, Minneapolis, Minn., on Wednesday and Thursday, Dec. 7 and 8, 1904, beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday. Among the subjects to be discussed and papers to be read are the following: "Some things I have learned about bee-keeping," by H.V. Poore; "How to increase your bee-pasturage," by Fred A. Krause; "Diseases of bees and legislation pertaining thereto," by Wm. McEwen; "Poultry as an adjunct to bee-keeping," by Victor D. Caneday; "Bee-keeping as an occupation," by J. H. Kimball; "Insuring bees," by C. H. Harlan; "Late feeding," by A. D. Shepard; "Selling honey through grocers," by George W. York; "Size of hive relative to the honey-flow," by Dr. L. D. Leonard; "A talk," by Ernest R. Root; "Honey exhibit at State Fair," by D.C. Hazelton; "Queen-rearing and managing out-apiaries," by J. H. Siple.

On Wednesday evening there will be stereopticon lectures by Prof. F. L. Washburn, State Entomologist, 25 minutes, and Ernest R. Root the balance of the evening.

All are invited to attend this convention.  
Mrs. W. S. WINGATE, Sec.  
Minneapolis, Minn.

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## Honey and Beeswax

**CHICAGO, Nov. 7.**—There is not demand sufficient to take the receipts; hence are accumulating, off grades of the surrounding territory. Fancy white clover brings 14c; other No. 1 to fancy white, 12½@13c; off grades 1 and 2c less; amber, 10@12c. Extracted, white, 6¼@7c; amber 6@7c; all of the foregoing is governed by quality, flavor and kind of package. Beeswax, 28@30c per pound. R. A. BURNETT & CO.

**KANSAS CITY, Sept. 22.**—Market on comb honey is quite active at \$2.75 per case for fancy white stock. Extracted rather slow at 6¼@7c. We look for the demand on extracted to pick up considerably with cooler weather. Beeswax in good demand at 30c per pound. C. C. CLEMONS & CO.

**BOSTON, Oct. 24.**—We are pleased to note an increased demand for honey, which with comparatively speaking, light receipts, makes prices firm. We quote fancy white, 16@17c; No. 1, 16c; with but little No. 2 on hand or to be had. Extracted, light amber, 7@8c. BLAKE, SCOTT & LEE.

**CINCINNATI, Oct. 28.**—There is a marked improvement in the demand for comb honey since our last quotations. No material change in the extracted-honey market. We continue to quote white clover extracted honey in barrels and cans at 7@8½c; amber in barrels, 5¼@6c. Fancy white clover comb honey, 14@15c. Beeswax, 28c. THE FRED W. MUTH CO.

**ALBANY, N.Y., Nov. 9.**—The crop of honey is turning out to be larger than estimated, and prices are softening, favoring the buyer. We quote fancy white, 15c; A No. 1, 14c; No. 1, 13c; mixed, 11@12c; buckwheat, best, 13c; average run, 11@12c. Extracted, buckwheat, 6c; white clover, 6¼c; mixed, 6c. Beeswax, 29@30c. H. R. WRIGHT.

**NEW YORK, Nov. 7.**—Receipts are now plentiful of nearly all grades. The demand is not quite as brisk as last year, and only fair. We quote fancy white at 14@15c; No. 1 white, 13c; lower grades at from 10@12c; buckwheat, 9@11c, according to quality. There is fairly good demand for extracted honey at unchanged prices. Beeswax dull at from 28@29c. HILDRETH & SHELLEN.

**PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 10.**—Shipments have been quite heavy in the last two weeks. Prices are a little weaker in consequence, although fancy honey maintains a good price. We find the shortage is always in the fancy goods, and the off goods are what overstock the market. We quote: Fancy, 16@17c; No. 1, 14c; amber and No. 2, 12@13c. Extracted, white, 8c; amber, 6@7c.

We are producers of honey and do not handle on commission. WM. A. SELSER.

**SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 9.**—White comb, 1-lb sections, 12@13c; amber, 9@11c. Extracted white, 6@6½c; light amber, 4¼@5¼c; amber, 3¼@4¼c; dark amber, 3@3¼c. Beeswax good to choice, light, 29@30c; dark, 27@28c.

The German ship Altair, sailing the past week for London, carried 445 cases extracted honey. Movement on local account is not very brisk and is mainly in best qualities. Only for choice to select does the market show firmness.

**CINCINNATI, O., Nov. 7.**—Comb honey is now coming in more freely, and prices if anything have moderated a little. The sales made and prices obtained were for No. 1 fancy water-white comb, 13@15c; No. 2, 12@14c. Extracted is sold as follows: White clover, in barrels, 6¼c; in cans, 7¼@8c; amber, in barrels, 5¼@5½c; in cans, 6@6¼c. Beeswax, 27c. C. H. W. WEBER

## Second-hand 60-lb. Cans Cheap

We have a quantity of 60-pound tin cans (2 in a box) which we have lately emptied ourselves, and so know they are all right. In lots of 20 or more boxes (40 cans) we will sell them at 40c a box. Order at once as they will soon be gone. These are a bargain. Address,

The York Honey Co.

HENRY M. ARND, Mgr.  
101 E. KINZIE STREET, CHICAGO, ILL.

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**I. J. STRINGHAM,**  
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